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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

SPINOZA, Marc H.

Serial No. 09/506,361

Filed: February 22, 2000



Atty. Ref.: 604-540

Group:

Examiner:

For: A METHOD OF SECURING A LINE TO A
PATIENT, FASTENERS AND THEIR USE TO
SECURE A LINE TO A PATIENT

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June 21, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Attention: Office of Petitions

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF INCOMPLETE
NON-PROVISIONAL APPLICATION AND
PETITION FOR AWARD OF FILING DATE**

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Incomplete Non-Provisional Application
mailed April 21, 2000. A copy of the Notice is attached.

The Notice indicates that a filing date has not been accorded to the above
application as the specification and drawings are missing. An executed Declaration has
also been required.

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In response, it is hereby asserted that the items listed in the Notice were submitted on February 18, 2000. The applicant hereby petitions that the filing date of February 18, 2000 be accorded to the present application.

A copy of the missing specification, claims (45), abstract, drawings (14 sheets) and executed Declaration (2 pages) submitted on February 18, 2000 are attached. Also attached are copies of additional documents which accompanied the application papers on February 18, 2000, namely a Rule 53(b) cover sheet, a Preliminary Amendment, an Assignment document including the recordal request cover sheet, and a PCT International Search Report. Also attached is a copy of the acknowledgement postcard which accompanied the application papers on February 18, 2000 showing receipt by the Patent Office on June 18, 2000 of the above-listed documents. The acknowledgement card also lists a priority document. The undersigned does not have a further copy of the certified priority document. A further copy of the priority document will be secured and filed during prosecution of the application. The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached papers are true copies of the papers submitted on February 18, 2000.

It is hereby petitioned that the attached papers be entered into the file of the application and that the application be awarded the filing date of February 18, 2000.

A petition fee of \$130.00 is attached. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees submitted herewith, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. **14-1140**.

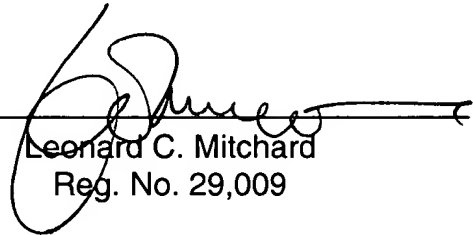
It is hereby specifically requested that the petition fee be refunded to our Deposit Account No. **14-1140**, since the application papers were complete as submitted on February 18, 2000.

Favorable action on this application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



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